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FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 11 September 1990, at 4 p.m.

President: Mr. DE RIVERO (Peru)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.35 p.m.

REPORTS OF THE MAIN COMMITTEES (agenda item 15)

Report of Main Committee I (NPT/CONF.IV/MC.I/1)

Mr. ADEYEMI (Nigeria), Chairman of Main Committee I, introduced its report. Section I recorded the outcome of the review of articles I and II and preambular paragraphs 1 to 3. A consensus had emerged on most of the text, but those parts on which agreement had not been reached had been placed in square brackets. Section II, regarding article VI and preambular paragraphs 8 to 12, showed that the Committee had been unable to agree on any text on that issue. As the report (page 10) made clear, the Chairman's paper was attached as an annex without prejudice to the position of any delegation.

As could be seen in Section III, containing the report of the work by the Sub-Committee on Security Assurances and subsequently by Working Group 2, agreement had been arrived at on all paragraphs but two. Paragraph 6 included a reference to unilateral declarations of all nuclear-weapon States "attached to this Final Declaration", which meant the final declaration of the Conference itself. He requested those States that had not already done so to forward those unilateral statements to the secretariat as soon as possible so that they could be attached to the Conference's final declaration.

Mr. GORDON (United States of America) said that his delegation, welcoming a suggestion for a useful contribution to the work of the Conference, was pleased to submit its security assurance as an annex to the final document. The security assurance of the United States was long-standing and had been reaffirmed by three successive Administrations.

Miss SOLESBY (United Kingdom) said that her delegation was pleased to see its unilateral security assurance attached to the final document. It had first been formulated in 1978 and since reiterated, and she read it out: "I accordingly give the following assurance, on behalf of my Government, to non-nuclear-weapon States which are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to other internationally binding commitments not to manufacture or acquire nuclear explosive devices: Britain undertakes not to use nuclear weapons against such States except in the case of an attack on the United Kingdom, its dependent territories, its armed forces or its allies by such a State in association or alliance with a nuclear-weapon State". Needless to say, the non-nuclear-weapon States must also comply with their obligations under article II of the Treaty.

The United Kingdom would continue to consult with the delegation of Nigeria and other delegations with a view to finding a mutually acceptable text for inclusion in the final document.

Mr. TIMERBAEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) announced that his Government's text on security assurances was also ready for inclusion in the final document.

The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Conference decided to take note of the report of Main Committee I.

It was so decided.

Report of Main Committee II (NPT/CONF.IV/MC.II/1)

Mr. STRULAK (Poland), Chairman of Main Committee II, introduced its report. The Committee had made intensive efforts to arrive at a consensus and, despite reservations by a number of delegations, which had been duly reproduced in the report, agreement had been reached on a number of key elements of the Treaty.

In the review of article III, delegations had overwhelmingly reaffirmed the importance of a universal safeguards system as one of the pillars of an effective non-proliferation régime and had commended the IAEA in its role in that area. Significant progress had been made on special inspection missions by the IAEA, more transparency in IAEA safeguards information reports, and safeguards in nuclear-weapon States. There was recognition of the progress made by the Zangger Committee on controlling the export of sensitive items, and the continuation of NPT-inspired activities was encouraged. The Committee also stressed the importance of full-scope safeguards.

In the review of article VII, widespread support had been reaffirmed for establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East, Africa and South-East Asia, and the valuable role of existing zones in Latin America, the South Pacific and Antarctica had been underscored.

In its consideration of article X, which related, inter alia, to extending the Treaty beyond 1995, the Committee had been unable to reach a consensus on a text for inclusion in its report to the Conference, but he felt there was still room to build on the discussions and proposals on that subject. The Committee had decided not to recommend any additional formulations on articles I, II and IX after being informed of the language proposed for those articles by Main Committees I and III.

The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Conference decided to take note of the report of Main Committee II.

It was so decided.

Report of Main Committee III (NPT/CONF.III/MC.III/2)

Mr. YAMADA (Japan), Chairman of Main Committee III, introduced its report. The Committee had considered the wording of 11 substantive items for the final declaration of the Conference and had agreed upon language for 10 items. Owing to disagreement on item IX, however, it had been unable to adopt the formulations as a whole. Intensive consultations had subsequently been undertaken on item IX, agreement had been reached, and the Drafting Committee had adopted by consensus the whole of the substantive part of the report, with item IX amended. The package formulation was thus intended to form part of the final declaration.

The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Conference decided to take note of the report of Main Committee III.

It was so decided.

Mr. MARIN BOSCH (Mexico) said that, while some progress had been made in elaborating the chapters of the final declaration corresponding to the topics assigned to Main Committees II and III, there continued to be difficulties with regard to the issues in Main Committee I, of a comprehensive nuclear test ban, cessation of the nuclear arms race, and security guarantees. His delegation shared the general desire to see the work of the Conference crowned by the adoption of a meaningful final declaration and not merely a document which tried to conceal certain basic facts regarding matters of fundamental interest to non-nuclear-weapon States Parties. He therefore hoped that a final declaration would be adopted by consensus, but by a consensus that itself was meaningful.

The present Conference afforded a unique opportunity to begin in 1991 preparations for the extension conference in 1995 and to work constructively at the Amendment Conference for the Partial Test-Ban Treaty in January 1991. The NPT should be extended well beyond 1995, and it was for that purpose that his delegation was co-sponsoring the draft resolutions contained in documents NPT/CONF.IV/L.3 and L.4.

He wished to reiterate that the success of the Conference depended on whether it would be possible to agree, first, on renewed efforts for the speedy conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty, second, on early steps for the preparation of the 1995 Conference, and third, on the establishment of

a mechanism to work out an instrument on security guarantees. Again, the fate of the NPT depended on the way in which the three Depositaries fulfilled their obligations under article VI. There was a close link between the provisions of the NPT on nuclear disarmament and those on review conferences and the limited duration of the Treaty. That issue was brought out in the working paper circulated by his delegation under the symbol NPT/CONF.IV/MC.I/CRP.3, also issued as NPT/CONF.IV/MC.II/CRP.13. Mexico's position in that respect was held by a great many other States.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.